(c) whether it is also a fact that despite inadequate monsoon rain, the availability of water can be sufficient if water harvesting should be arranged; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The storage position of the 76 important reservoirs in the country being monitored by Central Water Commission (CWC) and the rainfall upto 3rd week of July 2005 and 2006 are given below:

	2005	2006
All India weighted rainfall (mm)	349.5	292.3
Percentage departure from normal*	0	(-)16
Live storage in 76 reservoirs being monitored by CWC (BCM)	44.38	52.27

(*Normal is defined as average for past 30 years.)

It is seen from the table that in 2006 the rainfall is less as compared to the corresponding period in 2005 but the storage is more. The net quantity of rainwater harvested in these 76 important reservoirs during the monsoon period of 2005-2006 as on 30th September, 2005 was 109.55 BCM. Water harvested in these reservoirs upto 21st July 2006 is 52.25 BCM.

(c) and (d) The availability of water in a hydrologic year with inadequate monsoon rain can be improved if the water harvested in the previous hydrologic year had been left unsued for its use in the next year.

Revival of Traditional Harvesting in KBK Region of Orissa

844. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) region of Orissa is the most poverty/drought-stricken region of the country;

(b) whether as per the Central Ground Water Authority survey, in 65 per cent of the KBK region, water is just below4-6 metres from the surface during summer;

(c) whether revival of traditional harvesting structure can save this KBK region; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of the Centre to help the State to develop this traditional harvesting structure to combat drought in this region?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Based on the surveys carried out by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), it is observed that in nearly 85% of the area in Kalahandi, bolangir and Koraput (KBK) region of Orissa ground water level lies more than 4 metre below ground level and in 43% of the area it lies more than 6 metre below ground level during summer.

(c) and (d) Revival of traditional water harvesting structures can help in improving the storage capacity for harvesting rain water besides enhancing the ground water recharge. Water being a state subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take steps for improving water availability. However, the Ministry of Water Resources was sanctioned a National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to agriculture, as a pilot project, in January, 2005. The project is to be implemented in one or two districts each in the states for which proposals were required to be submitted by the State Governments. The Government of Orissa has not sent proposals for the KBK districts under the above scheme.

Revamping of Conventional Water Reservoirs

†845. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken decision in the past years to revamp all the conventional water reservoirs of the country and have water stored therein;

(b) if so, whether Government have found the number of all the water reservoirs in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.